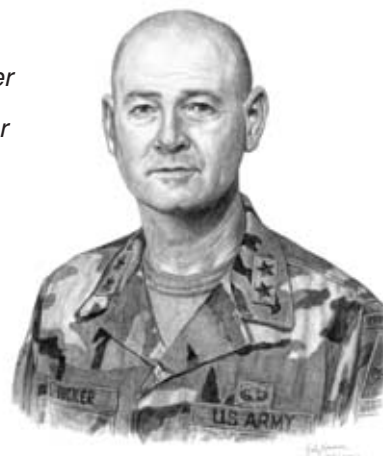


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Restructuring the Force

The U.S. Army is in its initial stages of the fastest reorganization in 50 years, while simultaneously revising its manning system to balance the rotation-based system of global operations and minimize individual rotations. The Army must balance current readiness, Soldier well-being, transformation, and current operational commitments while approximately 50 percent of its force is mobilized. The pace of change is staggering — this is truly not business as usual.

There are many efforts underway to prepare the Army for the next decade. Two of these efforts are Task Force Modularity and Task Force Stabilization. These two major efforts will design units that are easier to deploy while providing increased cohesion and improved predictability for Soldiers and families. They will also have a significant impact on the structure of Armor organizations and the professional development of Armor Soldiers.

The goal of Task Force Modularity is to build a brigade-based Army that is more deployable, responsive, and capable, while simultaneously enabling joint and expeditionary capabilities. This provides the capability to concurrently deploy units rapidly from several different CONUS-based locations, and reduces deployment times for units that are organized for specific tasks.

Restructuring to a modular Army will transform the current 17 heavy and 15 light brigades into self-contained Armored and Infantry brigade Units of Action (UA) over the next 3 years. Additionally, division, corps, and Army headquarters, along with their missions, will be realigned. The Unit of Employment (UE) construct includes a division/corps-level tactical headquarters (UE_x), and a corps/Army-level operational headquarters (UE_y). While the allocation rules are still being finalized, looks like we will have approximately 48 UA brigades and 8 to 12 UE_x. The Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (SBCTs) will probably not be affected by this transition.

Each UE_x will serve as a command and control organization for up to six UA brigades, as opposed to the current three brigades per division. Again, the decisions are pending, but the UE_x will likely retain divisional "designations;" however, they may not deploy as a division. The UE_x will also be supported by a number of support UAs. Force packages will be developed down to the individual UA brigade and units will be deployed based on theater requirements. Each UA brigade will consist of two combined-arms battalions structured with two mechanized Infantry and two tank companies. Each Armored UA brigade will have an Armored reconnaissance squadron with three ground cavalry troops, and the Infantry UA will have a reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition (RSTA) squadron, which will have one dismounted and two motorized reconnaissance troops and a surveillance troop.

The Army National Guard will concurrently rebalance the force as it transforms to maximize readiness, relevance, and responsiveness to meet the needs of the combatant commander. The National Guard's transition will mirror the Active Component force and they will remain a critical component of our combat capability.

These modular organizations will be supported by a unit-focused personnel assignments system that has been developed by Task Force Stabilization. The goal of this concurrent effort is to increase personnel stability, synchronize Soldier assignments to the unit operational cycles, increase unit cohesion, and provide increased predictability for Army Soldiers and families. The program will also decrease nondeployable personnel within the UAs. In a 3-year cycle, units will initially reset the unit, train up to a capstone exercise, and then be available for deployment, if necessary, during the next 2 years. After the deployment cycle, the unit will repeat the process with 30 to 50 percent of the Soldiers remaining for the next cycle to provide stability. All

of the Army's Armored/Infantry UAs will be alternately phased with approximately 75 percent in the ready phase at all times.

The Armor Branch will have expanded command opportunities under the UA structure based on the current proposal. There is the potential to significantly increase the number of battalion commands and branch-qualifying opportunities for majors. We will also see a significant increase in the number of scouts to man UA reconnaissance formations.

We are engaging the Center for Military History to ensure we effectively transition our Armor regiments and to provide an effective expansion of Cavalry regiments. The initial 3d Infantry Division regimental decisions were mandated by the need to make decisions with little lead-time. We are working to ensure that future decisions are made deliberately and support, to the maximum extent possible, the historic relationships between the cavalry regiments and the divisions (future UE_x).

Armor Branch, as the Army's proponent for reconnaissance and surveillance is analyzing the requirement for ground reconnaissance at the UE_x level. And, we are expanding the training base to fill the increased requirement for scouts. Conversely, we will reduce 19K positions as we move to combined-arms formations in the Armored UA battalions.

Rest assured that the Armor Center is actively engaged in the Army's transition and will remain engaged as we build the future. We currently have the 80-percent solution. In the months to come, we will determine acceptable risk and continue to improve the Mounted Force. The future is now.

Forge the Thunderbolt!